GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7676
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2002
PALACE ON WHEEL TYPE TRAINS
SHASHI KUMAR

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether memorandum of understanding has been reached between the various State Governments and the Indian Railwayson running the Palace on Wheels project in the State;

(b) if so, the main features of the MoU, State-wise;

(c) whether the Railways has asked the said State Governments to prepare a feasibility report on the project;

(d) if so, whether the project report has been prepared and sent to the Railways;

(e) if so, the details of the same, State-wise; and

(f) the time by which the Palace on Wheels project is likely to start in these States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY O RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a) Indian Railways have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Maharashtra for running a Palace on Wheel type train in the Maharashtra Sector.

(b) The Railways will provide the bare shells of the rake and all facilities necessary for the operation of the train. The entire cost of furnishing the rake, Air Conditioning and other coach equipment fittings will b e borne b y the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation who will also be responsible for housekeeping, hospitality services and sight-seeing.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, the Government of Maharashtra got a feasibility study done by a reputed consultancy firm and furnished the report. The project, as per the report, has been found viable by the Government of Maharashtra.

(f) The tourist train in the Maharashtra sector is likely to be launched in the current financial year.